

#### REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical errors of the specification have been amended.

In paragraph 2 of the Action, claims 1-6, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 1-5 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Katsuta et al.

In view of the rejections, claims 1, 2 and 11 have been amended. Claims 7-10 have been cancelled, and new claim 13 has been added.

In claim 1, it is clarified that the image reading apparatus includes means to cause overlapping of the one original with a next original after two sides of the one original are read so that the one original after the two sides of the one original are read is sent to the feeding position via the switchback path, is overlapped with the next original to feed the one and next originals in a same direction and to pass through the reading position in an overlapped condition without being read, and is discharged by the discharge means via the discharge outlet.

Namely, the one and next originals are overlapped, and the one and next originals in the overlapped condition are sent in the same direction. At this time, the one original is not read. Since the one original read already is overlapped with the next original for reading, the speed for processing of the originals can be shortened.

In Katsuta et al., after two side of the document D1 are read, the document D2 is transferred, and is read. In this condition, the documents D1, D2 are partially overlapped, but the documents D1, D2 are transported in the opposite directions respectively (column 43, lines 7-16). Figs. 38(a) to 38(i) clearly show the above sequence of Katsuta et al.

On the other hand, in the invention, the one and next originals are overlapped and are sent in the overlapped condition

to the same direction. The documents D1, D2 in Katsuta et al. are overlapped but transferred in the opposite directions, not overlapped and transferred in the overlapped condition to the same direction. After the document D2 is overlapped or passes the document D1, the document D2 is transferred to follow the document D1. The features of claim 1 now clearly amended are not disclosed in Katsuta et al.

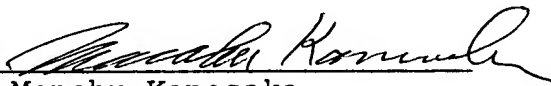
Claim 11 has been amended to clarify the structure as in claim 1. Therefore, the one and next originals in an overlapped condition are transferred to the reading position. This structure is not disclosed or suggested in Katsuta et al.

Claims now on pending in the application are patentable over Katsuta et al.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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